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of the survey of the north-eastern coast of Australia by means of a small steamer. But I have addressed your Grace at length respecting these two undertakings in several previous despatches, stating at the same time how liberally the Government of Queensland is ready to contribute towards the expenses of both."

3. *Extracts of a Despatch from His Excellency SIR GEORGE BOWEN to the DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, in reference to Mr. Landsborough's first Route to the South-West of Carpentaria, dated Queensland, April 12th, 1862.*

"I HAVE the honour to forward herewith two copies of the Journal kept by Mr. Landsborough (the Queensland explorer) on his recent expedition, also a copy of the chart of his route. It will be seen that Mr. Landsborough, starting in a south-westerly direction from the left bank of the Albert River, towards the centre of the Australian continent, penetrated as far as $20^{\circ} 14' 5''$ s. lat., and $138^{\circ} 17'$ E. long., thus reaching a point 250 miles south-east of the point reached by McDouall Stuart on 27th August, 1860, and about 320 miles north of the farthest point reached by Captain Sturt on the 8th September, 1845. Finding no trace of Messrs. Burke and Wills (to search for whom was the primary object of the expedition), Mr. Landsborough returned by a somewhat different track to the depôt on the Albert River. It has been truly observed, in an Australian publication, that the 'cheerful alacrity with which he resumed his arduous labours, the moment his party had been strengthened and provisioned, proves that his heart was in his work.'

"The country traversed by Mr. Landsborough on his recent journey consisted at first of thinly-wooded and well grassed plains, which were suffering from drought at that period of the year (height of summer), but which bore marks of being occasionally inundated. Farther on towards the interior the travellers, after crossing some basaltic ridges overrun with desert-grass, came upon fine open plateaux, lightly timbered and covered with rich pasture, to which the name of "Barkly Table-land" has been given, in honour of the Governor of Victoria. Much of the upland as well as of the lowland country is reported as well suited for cotton cultivation, while vast tracts are admirably adapted for pastoral purposes. It has been suggested that, inasmuch as the rainfall on the north-eastern coast of Australia occurs at a season when the territory skirting the southern portion of the Gulf of Carpentaria generally appears to suffer from drought, it is probable that a

system of migratory settlement may hereafter be adopted with advantage to the flocks and herds which will eventually occupy both regions. A belt of table-land would seem to stretch from east to west between the 18th and 19th parallels of south latitude; and in the mountain barrier which separates it from the plains of the seaboard are the sources of most of the affluents of the Albert, Nicholson, Flinders, and of the other rivers flowing into the Gulf. Messrs. Burke and Wills, as well as Mr. Landsborough, crossed this table-land, and were much struck with the beauty of its landscape, the richness of its vegetation, the amenity of its climate, and the indications which it presents of the existence of mineral wealth. Although it is within the tropics its elevation is sufficient to insure a mild temperature; while the peculiar formation of the country, with deep basins surrounded by chains of hills, would render comparatively easy the construction of reservoirs to hold the great annual fall of rain. On the whole, this region holds out the promise of being ere long overspread by that tide of population which is gradually creeping up the eastern seaboard of Queensland, and which will naturally flow round towards the Gulf when it reaches the York Peninsula.

“The projected establishment of a settlement at Cape York, and the proposed temporary annexation to Queensland of the territory sketched above, will vastly accelerate its colonization by securing to the intending settlers the advantages of certain communication, of armed protection, and of regular civil government.”

4. *Extracts of a Despatch from His Excellency SIR H. BARKLY to the DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, in reference to Messrs. Burke and Wills, Mr. Landsborough, Mr. Walker, Mr. Howitt, and Mr. McKinlay, dated Melbourne, April 23rd, 1862.*

“I AM happy to be enabled to state that Her Majesty's colonial steamer, *Victoria* has since returned from her voyage, bringing the most satisfactory account of the operations both of the party under Mr. Landsborough, which she carried round from Moreton Bay, and of that under Mr. Walker, which travelled overland from the Fitzroy River, and reached the appointed rendezvous on the Albert early in December, after discovering traces of Mr. Burke near the mouth of the Flinders, the river he was supposed to have struck.

“A full report of this most important and interesting journey will be found in the Parliamentary Papers which I enclose; as also of the expedition to the South-west, on which Mr. Landsborough, as